# The Connection

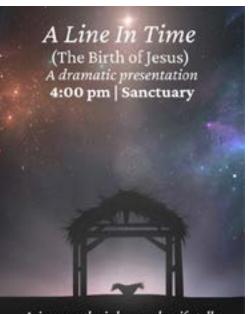
### December 22, 2021

## **Celebrate Jesus' Birth with Us Christmas Eve!**

t 4:00 pm in the sanctuary will be a dramatic presentation, *A Line in Time*, written by Rev. Becky. Just prior to the program, the congregation will be greeted by our little shepherd, Teddy Aravena and our littlest angel, Isabelle Oehler who will ask the audience to join them in singing "Jesus Loves Me." The production is directed by Jane Peterson, with Nicholas Todd Shumate as music director. Along with the story, the congregation will hear several carols from our Wise Men, Mary, and the cast, as well as a sing-along at the end. This production is suitable for then entire family. Masks and social distancing will be required for those in attendance. The production team includes Lynn Shirley, Tommy Betenbaugh, Sam Waldrep, and Susan Caskey. The cast features:

Narrator: Rev. Becky Shirley Joseph: Joseph Graham Mary: Michelle Graham Baby Jesus: Joseph Graham, Jr. Rebecca: Darby Waund Shepherds: Alan-Jon Zupan, Dane Waund, Mackenzie Powers Sheep: Rosemary Aravena Star of Bethlehem: Alma Louise Aravena Wisemen: Nicholas Shumate, Pato Aravena, Malcolm Lemons Piano: Rick Frierson Organ: Louis Shirer

At 5:30 pm, a traditional service with lessons, carols, communion and candle lighting will be held in the sanctuary. Individual communion elements will be provided. Again, masks are required and social distancing is highly encouraged with the new high numbers of Covid in our community. We appreciate everyone's cooperation following our protocols.



Join us as the inkeepers's wife tells the story of Jesus' birth on the day long ago that divided time.



### Homer Fesperman Worship Technology Fund Established

o honor the legacy of contributions from Homer V. Fesperman to the church's worship services through his audio and technological expertise, a fund memorializing Homer has been established by Linda Fesperman (wife) and daughter Lin Fesperman Lord. The purpose of this fund is to provide resources for the church's evolving ministries in worship, including but not limited to live stream resources and upgrades to the technology used in the worship experience.

In this special season of remembrance and giving, you are invited to make a seed contribution to this effort. Of course, a contribution at any time will be used to accrue funds needed to expand the current live stream ministry and improve worship technology.



## **Sunday School**

• The Aldersgate Sunday School Class: will begin a discussion and lesson on *The Lord's Prayer: The Meaning and Power of the Prayer Jesus Taught* by Adam Hamilton, pastor and best-selling author. Hamilton guides us to really know- and really pray- the Lord's Prayer. He explores each of the its rich lines and their meaning in the Bible, illuminating what we ask of God and what we ask of ourselves through its words. Please come join us, we welcome all. This discussion will be led by David Anderson and Hal Hanlin. We hope to have a DVD from Adam Hamilton to view along with the discussions, but it has yet to be released. Should you have any questions, please call David A. Anderson (mobile 803-318-8821) or danderson@richardsonplowden.com.

• The Dawsey Class: This Sunday, December 26, we will continue our study of *Julian of Norwich: Wisdom in a Time of Pandemic—and Beyond* by Matthew Fox. John Evans will teach Chapter 7, "The Power of Love Over Evil: A Call to Wellness." Next Sunday, January 2, we will finish the book. Hunter Rentz will lead a discussion of the Conclusion, "Why Julian? Why Now?" and the Epilogue, "A Prophet for the Twenty-First Century."The class will meet by FreeConference Call. Class members should call in before 9:15 a.m., but not before 9:05 a.m. The call-in number is (701) 802-5115. The access code is 7252934. For more information about the class, contact the class president Mary Slade at <u>marydslade4@gmail.com</u>.

• The Grace Class: Dec. 26: "Upsetting the Pyramid." The class is working on topics for upcoming Sundays. Join in person or contact Jim Lane at <u>jlane@columbiasc.edu</u> for the Zoom link to gather Sunday mornings at 9:45 am for fellowship, and at 10:00 am for spiritual reflection. All are welcome to join!

• **The Joy Class** is embracing the Advent season with a series of Advent themed lessons led by various members. All are welcome to join us as we learn and grow together to prepare for the season. If you are interested, please contact Lee Haynes at <u>lelandhaynesjr@gmail.com</u> or Sylvia Stevens at <u>sylviasaundersstevens@gmail.com</u> for more information.

• **Open Door Class:** On December 26, Open Door will complete its study of *Incarnation* by Adam Hamilton and will not meet on January 2. The class meets both in person and via zoom each week. For Zoom link information, contact Ann Jessup at jessup.ann@gmail.com.

• The Paul Harmon Class: The Paul Harmon Class will not meet December 26th or January 2nd. On January 9th, Reverend Don Britt will begin a series of lessons on the history of Methodism and the Methodist Church today. All are welcome to join us. If you have questions, please contact Suzanne Joye at <u>sjoye@sc.rr.com</u>.

• John Harper Class: is currently studying the Gospels using Cokesbury Adult Sunday School materials. The class is led by Tracy Powers. All are welcome. Contact Tracy for more information at tjpowers65@gmail.com.

• WSUMC Youth Class: In Sunday school on December 26th, the youth will be discussing "Christmas is over, now what? Or... Is it just beginning?" To participate, please email Mackin Wall at <u>mackin@</u>wsmethodist.org.

THE WSUMC OFFICE & CDC WILL BE CLOSED In Observance of the Christmas Holidays on Friday, DEC. 24 & Monday, DEC. 27

## Gifts

IN HONOR OF ALAN-JON ZUPAN to the Soup Cellar Given by Meghan & Kylie Hopkins

IN HONOR OF LILLIAN MCCLAIN & KAREN HOSTETLER to the Soup Cellar Given by Ed McClain

IN MEMORY OF PAUL BROWN to the Soup Cellar Given by Beth & Lamar Brabham

IN HONOR OF BECKY SHIRLEY to the Minister's Discretionary Fund Given by Susan Brown

IN MEMORY OF PAUL BROWN to WSUMC Given by Joan & Bob Beamer

IN MEMORY OF FURMAN & MARY MCEACHERN to WSUMC Given by Sally & Jim Mings

IN HONOR OF ALSTON LIPPERT to the Minister's Discretionary Fund Given by Susan Brown

In Honor of Sam Waldrep to the Flower Fund Given by Susan Brown

IN MEMORY OF PAUL BROWN to the Organ Fund Given by Louis Shirer

IN HONOR OF TONI WHITE & JOE ALLEY to the Soup Cellar Given by Ann White

#### Prayer List

Lyn Bailey Thom Berry Martha Boynton Martha Brooker Sally Christian Heidi Conte Mickey Epting Bud Harrelson Laura Holladay Karen Horne Geneva Hutchinson Lisa Johnson Debby Joyner In Honor of Kel, Lish, Ansley & Sierra Jansen to the Soup Cellar Given by Ann White

IN MEMORY OF DON FOWLER to the Organ Fund Given by Louis Shirer

IN MEMORY OF RICK HEPFER to the Soup Cellar Given by A.B.T.A.T.M.S. Book Club

IN HONOR OF DEBBIE EDENS to the Soup Cellar Given by Todd Timmons

IN MEMORY OF DON FOWLER to WSUMC Given by Rick Frierson

IN MEMORY OF RICK HEPFER to WSUMC Given by Janelle Rivers

IN MEMORY OF PAUL BROWN to the Organ Fund Given by Louis Shirer

IN HONOR OF MARY LIDE to the Soup Cellar Given by Nancy Higgins

IN MEMORY OF DUNBAR GODBOLD to the Soup Cellar Given by Ann Mercer

IN HONOR OF THE WOMEN SOUP CELLAR VOLUNTEERS FROM TRINITY EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL to the Soup Cellar Given by Ruth Tibshrany

Rev. Judy King Mike LeFever Paul McClanahan David Middleton Lauren, Greg, and Nora Blair Middleton and family Rick Rowe Boyd Saunders Stephanie Saunders Sarah Threatt Marjorie Tuell Our homebound

#### New Wednesday Night Small Group Study Starts Jan. 5

Without Getting Old: The Steps to Take to Stay Young for the Rest of your Life by Joyce Meyer.

"Everything is beautiful in its time. Life is a journey through beautiful and varied seasons, with a dynamic cadence and full of continued discovery. Embrace each season of your life and learn to live into it fully with grace and help from Joyce Meyer, as she shows you:

• How to truly cast even your lifelong cares upon the Lord

• How to live dynamically, embracing and delighting in the journey

- How to embrace God's grace for this season
- How to live abundantly as your body and mind change

God's timing is always perfect, and there is a distinct and meaningful purpose for this season of your life. Joyce says, "Only a fool thinks they can always do what they have always done." How to Age Without Getting Old equips us to become wise enough to embrace God's changing grace and the evolution of our calling to the next season of life."\*

To join in, register online through Realm or by emailing Ann at jessup.ann@gmail.com.

\*Amazon.com



Last Sunday's Camille Saint Saëns during the 11:00 am service was expertly performed by WSUMC Choir and soloists along with guest musicians. Hats off to Nicholas Todd Shumate for bring this fabulous program to us!



#### HAVE YOU SIGNED UP FOR REALM?

 Find contact information on other members
Send messages to your groups
Sign up for small groups and other special events
Add and share resources with others
Automatically track your giving ...and so much more!
Questions? Contact Lynn Shirley at wmlynnsc@gmail.com,
or one of the WSUMC staff members.

## Reminder!

The deadline to put a \$100 deposit down for the 2022 Ecuador mission trip is January 15th. Questions? Contact Mackin Wall at mackin@wsmethodist.org



# JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

January 2 Leon Davis, Jr. Mickey Epting **Connor** Freeman January 4 Stewart Bond **Bob** Peeler **January** 5 Pam Jenkins Pierce McNair January 6 Harriett Davis January 7 Kennedy Rose Kenneth Taylor **Emily** Torres January 8 Betty Bowers January 10 Sarah Johnson Daniel Marsha January 11 Patti Andrews **Rick Rowe** January 12 Monica Davis Linda Moore

Jim Ward Ann White January 13 Carl Evans Harry Lesesne Robbie Lindler Caroline Pender Larry Railey Caitlyn Venner **Emily Watkins** January 14 Trisha Britt Margo Krasowski David Nelson January 15 Charles Bryan Naomi Chiorazzi January 16 Penny Horton Wendy Tague January 17 John Burbage Jacob Schatz January 18 Gabe Baker January 19 Elyse Epting



Ford Epting Hilary Riley Rebecca Shrum January 20 Hamilton Matthews Sara Matthews January 21 Jean Harmon January 22 Cecelia Stucker **Jim Tuell** Richard Wright January 23 By Collins Cathy Devo Meghan Goldfinch Jamie Sanders January 24 Judy Ellington Pete Liggett January 25 Beth Cooper Christopher FitzSimons Bess Ratsimbaharison January 26 John Beck Carole McConkey

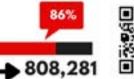
**Becky Shirley** Lynn Shirley Sylvia Stevens January 27 Marion Burnside, III Thomas Lide Linda Reardon Jerry Sumpter Bill Westerkam **Emily Workman** January 28 Jonathan Jackson Kristin Nix Rom Pompeii **January 29** Sawyer Anderson Tom Jacobs Jennifer Rodgers January 30 Eugenia Beach Mattie Floyd January 31 Susan Brown Anna Katherine Middleton Lora Smith

# DONATE NOW

Help us reach our budget goal for 2021! We ask that you prayerfully consider an extra gift this year. Your investment in the world God is doing through our ministries is making a positive difference every day.

#### \$691,978

GOAL -





www.wsmethodist.org/giving

SCAN TO GIVE

ATTENDANCE: December 5: 124 December 12: 145 December 19: 165

GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE (as of 12-21-21): Church: Budget: \$808,281 Actual: \$691,978 Soup Cellar: \$77,202 Foundation Gifts: \$131,250

Scan Me to Give!



**Give online today** wsmethodist.org/giving